

## ABSTRACT

A simple supplementary service protocol (SSSP) is provided for implementing functionally based supplementary services using the H.323 standard. According to the preferred embodiment, a generic and expandable protocol is provided for passing supplementary services information between H.323 entities for the provision of over twenty classes of functionally based supplementary services. The protocol of the present invention is relatively lightweight (i.e. not code intensive) compared to H.450 since it does not rely on ASN.1 encoding. In addition, the mixture of functional and stimulus protocol concepts in the design of the inventive protocol results in robust functional characteristics and implementation capability using only lightweight Endpoints.